Conference held on 28-29 September 2002, a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector Workers on 7-8 November 2002 and a Tripartite Committee Meeting held on 18-19 February 2003. Such initiatives are necessary for evolving a consensus on important matters relating to labour and to crystallize the views of the Government for implementation of recommendations of the Commission. Given the procedure involved, it is, however, difficult to specify any time-limit.

Remittance by workers abroad

5061. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the World Bank report released in April 2003, the annual remittances by the Indian workers abroad were around $ 10 Billion in 2001 and there is a scope to double it with some efforts;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address various problems and bottlenecks relating to skilled and non-skilled workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In an effort to increase the remittances made by the Indian workers working abroad and address various problems being faced by the Indian workers, the Central Government in the Ministry of Labour has already introduced Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 21-11-2002 providing for establishment of Central Manpower Export Promotion Council. One of the functions of the Council will be to promote employment opportunities for emigrant workers abroad.

Accidental deaths in industries

5062. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the accidental deaths are increasing in the industries;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to minimise the same; and

(c) whether Government have taken any security measures and issued any guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Factories Act, 1948 and the rules framed there under prescribe the safety and health provisions for the workers employed in factories. This Act is

enforced by the State Governments through the Inspectorate of Factories. Some of the steps taken for minimising the accidents by the State Governments are given below :—

(i) Every fatal accident is thoroughly investigated by the Officers of the Inspectorate of Factories and remedial measures are suggested. Compliance is also followed up to prevent recurrence of such accidents.

(ii) Wherever essential, prosecutions are alsc launched against, the defaulting establishments.

(iii) Priority inspection are carried out by the Inspectorates, particularly, in hazardous units.

(iv) Education and training programmes, workshops and seminars are organised.

(c) The Directorate General of Factories advice Service and Labour Institutes under the Ministry of Labour had issued following Guidelines to the State Government for implementation :—

(i) Guidelines for inspections of Major Accidents Hazards Units.

(ii) General Guidelines on Electrical Safety.

Closing down of industries

5063. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries declared closed during the last three years in the States including Gujarat;

(b) the number of affected workers, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to rehabilitate these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CBT Meeting

5064. SHRI JIBON ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the members who attended the 160th meeting of the Central Board of Trustee of EPF from employees' side, organisation-wise;

(b) whether a housing project for the EPF subscribers had been approved in the meeting; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?